



Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Consumer Consultative Committee (CCC)

HTA CCC Communique – Friday 14 May 2021

15th meeting of the HTA CCC

Attendees

Consumer representatives from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), the Prostheses List Advisory Committee and the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and their subcommittees as well as a consumer representative from the Therapeutic Goods Administration Advisory Committee on Medicines, and the Advisory Committee on Medical Devices. The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) consumer representative mentee was also in attendance.

Departmental representatives from the Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit (CEEU) and the Office of Health Technology Assessment (OHTA) HTA Support Unit.

Outcomes

The Chair, Jo Watson, provided an update on activities since the previous HTA CCC meeting on 19 February 2021 as well as a membership update acknowledging the end of Jan Donovan's term on the DUSC. The Chair thanked Ms Donovan for her input and work, acknowledging her contribution to DUSC since September 2011.

The CEEU provided an update on the development of the OHTA consultation hub which aims to centralise the PBAC and MSAC targeted and non-targeted consumer consultations processes and noted that additional support would be provided to the CEEU in June 2021 to assist with project work including the consumer symposium planned for September 2021.

The draft mentoring evaluation report, prepared by Ann Single, was also presented and discussed at the meeting. The report assessed the areas of support required for new members in DUSC as well as assisting an existing experienced consumer member in transitioning from this role at the end of their term.

The HTA CCC members discussed the following issues in relation to the report developed by Ms Single:

- the importance of the Department communicating the time commitment required for any consumer committee role. This would help to ensure the identified individual would have capacity to undertake the role, reducing the risk of misunderstandings, inappropriate recruitment and potential burnout.
- allowing mentees to attend as an observer of other meetings as well as one-on-one virtual introductions to other members. It was acknowledged by the DUSC mentee that joining a committee in the height of COVID-19 was challenging – without the same opportunities for informal chats/questions with other members.

- the importance of a primary mentor to support a new committee member
- the importance of the Department developing some standard learning modules.

The CEEU acknowledged the issues raised in the report and noted that the time commitment would be captured in the HTA CCC role descriptions that are currently being updated.

There was also a discussion about the HTA CCC consumer symposium proposed to be held on Thursday 23 September 2021. The symposium will be a virtual event with the theme of “making connections”. The purpose of this event is to bring together consumers and consumer organisations, both developing and experienced, in engaging with health technology assessment processes to build connections, share experiences and receive updates about the work across the OHTA and the CEEU.